

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ CLASS: _____ SCORE: _____

LESSON 33 • MEMORY LESSON • "A SECRET" Nature Riddle Poetry • 4- and 5-Letter Word Copy & Spelling • Phonics Rules **PAGE 22****PHONICS & SPELLING RULES TO REMEMBER****RULE 1 • SILENT CONSONANT (KN-)**

In *know*, the initial letter **k** before **n** is silent (/noʊ/). In *where*, final **-e** is silent.

RULE 2 • VOWEL DIGRAPHS (OW, UE, EAR)

ow sounds like long *ō* in *know*, but /aʊ/ in *brown*. *ue* in *blue* makes /u:/; *ear* in *heard* makes /ɜ:ɪ/.

RULE 3 • FLOSS RULE (-LL)

In *tell*, the final /l/ after a single short vowel is doubled (-ll).

1 Memory Lesson • "A Secret": Read aloud with expression and solve the riddle:**A SECRET**

*I know of a cradle, so wee and so blue,
Where a baby is sleeping this morning, — do you?
I think he is dreaming the dearest of things —
Of songs and of sunshine, of tiny brown wings.
I'll tell you a secret, — don't tell where you heard, —
The cradle's an egg, — and the baby's a bird!*

SOLVE THE NATURE RIDDLE:

1. What is the "blue cradle"? An _____
2. Who is the "sleeping baby"? A _____
3. What kind of bird lays blue eggs? A _____

Memory Check: Recite both stanzas clearly from memory with a partner.

2 Textbook Exercise: Copy and learn to spell all words of 4 or 5 letters from the poem:**FOUR-LETTER WORDS (7 WORDS)**

know _____

blue _____

baby _____

this _____

tiny _____

tell _____

bird _____

FIVE-LETTER WORDS (6 WORDS)

where _____

think _____

songs _____

brown _____

wings _____

heard _____

3 Orthographic Detective: Find the matching words in the poem and write them neatly:

1. Silent initial k: _____
2. FLOSS rule double -ll: _____
3. Plural -s (2 words): _____ & _____
4. /ɜ:ɪ/ sound in heard & bird: _____ & _____

LESSON 33 • TEACHER ANSWER KEY & LINGUISTIC GUIDE

4- & 5-Letter Word Inventory • Silent Letters & Vowel Teams • Classroom Script

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KEY

Word	Category	IPA	Phonetic / Orthographic Feature	Linguistic & Pedagogical Rationale
know	4 LETTERS	/nou/	Silent k; digraph ow (/ou/)	Initial kn- cluster where k is silent; ow represents long o.
blue	4 LETTERS	/blu:/	Initial bl-; vowel digraph ue (/u:/)	Vowel team ue represents long oo /u:/; color of robin's egg.
baby	4 LETTERS	/'beɪ.bi/	Two syllables; open ba- (/beɪ/); final -y (/i/)	Metaphorical subject: the baby bird hatching from the egg.
this	4 LETTERS	/ðɪs/	Voiced digraph th (/ð/); short i (/ɪ/)	High-frequency demonstrative pronoun; closed syllable.
tiny	4 LETTERS	/'taɪ.ni/	Two syllables; open ti- (/taɪ/); final -y (/i/)	Descriptive adjective denoting diminutive fledgling wings.
tell	4 LETTERS	/tɛl/	Short e (/ɛ/); geminate -ll (FLOSS rule)	Base verb; final /l/ after single short vowel doubles to -ll.
bird	4 LETTERS	/bɜːr/	r-controlled vowel ir (/ɜːr/)	Central resolution to the riddle poem; phonogram -ird.
where	5 LETTERS	/wɛər/	Digraph wh- (/w/); silent final -e	Adverb of place; air-sound rhyming with there/bear.
think	5 LETTERS	/θɪŋk/	Voiceless th (/θ/); velar nasal blend -nk (/ŋk/)	Cognitive action verb; -nk coda assimilates to velar nasal.
songs	5 LETTERS	/sɒŋz/	Velar nasal -ng (/ŋ/); plural suffix -s (/z/)	Plural noun; /z/ sound follows voiced nasal /ŋ/.
brown	5 LETTERS	/braʊn/	Initial br- blend; diphthong ow (/aʊ/)	Color adjective; ow represents diphthong /aʊ/ contrasting with know.
wings	5 LETTERS	/wɪŋz/	Velar nasal -ng (/ŋ/); plural suffix -s (/z/)	Plural noun; describes fledgling birds' wings.
heard	5 LETTERS	/hɜːrd/	Irregular vowel team ear (/ɜːr/)	Irregular past tense of hear; vowel pronounced like bird/turn.

PEDAGOGICAL & LITERARY ANALYSIS:

1. Riddle Key: Blue cradle = egg (specifically the turquoise-blue egg of the American Robin); Sleeping baby = baby bird / chick; Tiny brown wings = fledgling plumage.

2. Detective Key: 1. Silent k: know; 2. FLOSS rule double -ll: tell; 3. Plural -s: songs, wings; 4. /ɜːr/ sound: heard, bird.

3. Diphthong vs. Long Vowel Contrast: Point out to students that -ow produces two distinct phonemes in this poem: the long ɔ /ou/ in know vs. the diphthong /aʊ/ in brown.

CLASSROOM DICTATION SCRIPT (10 CONTEXTUAL SENTENCES)

know: Do you *know* what is hidden inside the blue egg?

blue: The robin laid four tiny *blue* eggs in her nest. **baby:** A fluffy *baby* bird peeked out of the shell.

tiny: The nestlings stretched their *tiny* brown wings. **tell:** Please *tell* me the riddle of the singing bird.

bird: A mother *bird* brings fresh worms to her babies. **where:** Look up in the oak tree *where* the nest rests.

think: I *think* the sweet springtime has finally arrived. **songs:** The forest filled with lovely morning *songs*.

heard: We *heard* the cheerful robin whistle at dawn.

DIAGNOSTIC SCORING RUBRIC (50 POINTS)

Target Skill	Criteria for Mastery	Pts
4-Letter Words	Accurately copies and spells all 7 four-letter words.	/14
5-Letter Words	Accurately copies and spells all 6 five-letter words.	/12
Riddle Comprehension	Correctly identifies egg, bird, and robin from poem clues.	/12
Orthographic Detective	Accurately finds know, tell, songs/wings, heard/bird.	/12
TOTAL SCORE:		/50

COMMON STUDENT ERRORS:

• Silent letter omissions: Spelling *now for know.

• Vowel team confusion: Writing *herd for heard or *tel for tell.

• R-controlled vowel error: Writing *berd or *burd for bird.